



Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month (AAPI) is celebrated each May and was originally designated as a week celebration in 1978 with the extension to a month in 1992. The idea was initiated by Jeanie Jew whose Chinese great-grandfather was killed during the violent anti-Asian movement of the 1800's. She advocated for a time of recognition for Asian Americans in the same way that Black Americans and Hispanic Americans had their annual times of recognition by that point. The month of May was chosen for its significance with both the month that the first known Japanese immigrant arrived as well as the month the transcontinental railroad was completed which was constructed by largely Chinese immigrants. This article gives more background:

<https://time.com/5592591/asian-pacific-heritage-month-history/>

This year is a particularly important year to make sure to show the Asian community in your schools that they are seen and valued. Also make an effort to get to know the specific Asian ethnicities represented within your school community. Each ethnicity is unique and has their own history, culture and traditions. Invite school community members of Asian descent to participate in planning any celebrations or recognitions of their heritage as well as solicit their feedback for any ways the school community could be more inclusive or to address any disparities they may be experiencing.

Some resources for educators and families:

<https://smithsonianapa.org/stand/>

<https://asianpacificheritage.gov/for-teachers/>

<https://sharemylesson.com/collections/aapi>

<https://www2.ed.gov/free/features/asian-pacific-heritage.html>

<https://www.parents.com/holiday/asian-pacific-american-heritage-month-history-and-activities-for-kids/>